

STATEMENT OF SENATOR JENNER

The hearing which is now starting will deal, among other things, with the question of the power of faith and the love of a good woman.

We know that the Soviet Government of Russia is a tyrannical dictatorship. We know it cannot rely upon the support of its own people. We know it must rely, therefore, upon the terror exerted by its secret service.

We shall hear testimony today from a man who was a member of that secret service. He was trained at considerable effort and expense by the Soviet Government. He was entrusted with highly confidential missions including the assassination of anti-Soviet elements. But he was moved to turn against the regime.

That this man was in fact an agent of the MVD appears to have been conclusively established. The witness has been subjected to vigorous cross-examination in executive sessions. Check points in his story have been investigated, and scores of such check points have proved valid. That he was what he says he was--an agent of the MVD--the committee is convinced.

Motivation is a thing not so readily checked; the best evidence of a man's motive, of course, is the testimony of the man himself; and the witness will tell his own story with respect to his motives for what he has done. His testimony that despite the persecutions of the Godless dictatorship he once served, religious faith still survives, even in the ranks of secret Soviet agents, may point to the Achilles' heel of the Soviet giant.

This witness will be asked to disclose methods used by Soviet secret agents abroad in preparing for the assassination of their enemies, the elaborate precautions used to cover up their activities, the ingenious weapons employed. He will be asked to testify concerning the special directorate of the Soviet secret service assigned to the work of assassinations. He will be asked for testimony which will throw light on the character of Panyushkin, former Soviet Ambassador to the United States, who became a leading official of an organization which was a sort of Soviet "Murder Incorporated". He will be asked to tell what he knows of the murder of Leon Trotsky.

I want to say frankly, for the record, that this witness has given a great deal of testimony in executive sessions, which, for security reasons, he will not be asked to repeat in the open session.

The witness is a linguist, but does not have a good command of the English language; therefore, the hearing must be conducted through an interpreter. Effort will be made to keep the questions short and precise; and the interpreter has been instructed to translate sentence by sentence, on both questions and answers, in the interests of accuracy.